GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5198
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
MEETING OF NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL
KAILASH MEGHWAL;KANTI SINGH;P.D. ELANGOVAN;RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Resources Council held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister in April, 2002;

(b) if so, the broad features of the deliberations held and the decisions arrived at;

(c) whether the Chief Minsters of Southern States have conveyed their consent to the adoption of National Water Policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any emphasis has been laid on the constitution of River Basin Organisations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The fifth meeting of the National Water Resources Council (NWRC), wherein the Chief Ministers of all the States and Union Territories are members, was held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 1st April, 2002 to consider the draft revised National Water Policy. The Chief Ministers of Southern States were represented by their respective Ministers dealing with water resources/irrigation. The Revised National Water Policy,with certain modifications made in light of the views expressed and suggestions made by the members of the Council, was adopted and a Resolution to this effect was unanimously passed by the Council. The Policy, interalia envisages that each State should formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner within a period of two years and implement the same in order to achieve the desired objectives as laid down in the policy.

(e) & (f) The National Water Policy recognizes river basin/ sub-basin as a basic unit for the development of water resources in the country. For the integrated water resources development and management, the National Water Policy provides that "appropriate River Basin Organisations should be established for planned development and management of a river basin as a whole or sub-basins, wherever necessary. Special multi-disciplinary units should be set up to prepare comprehensive plans taking into account not only the needs of irrigation but also harmonizing various other water uses, so that the available water resources are determined and put to optimum use having regard to existing agreements or awards of Tribunals under the relevant laws. The scope and powers of River Basin Organisations shall be decided by the basin States themselves".